

ENGL 3355: Postcolonial Literature in English

Instructor: Dr. Penny Ingram

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Office Hours: T: 1-3; R: 9:30-10:45
and by appointment

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Semester: Fall 2009

Class Time: T/R 11:00-12:20

Classroom: PH 210

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to a burgeoning field in literary studies: postcolonial literature and theory. We will begin with a study of the central tenets of postcolonial theory and then proceed to a sampling of literary texts that foreground a number of these issues. Postcolonial literature is literature produced by formerly colonized nations, including India, Pakistan, the West Indies, various countries in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and others. Such literature is concerned with the way colonial subjects are produced in and by Empire. Postcolonial literature can be a tool by which the colonized subject “writes back” to Empire, engaging with themes like identity, belonging, exile, place, language, sovereignty, and hybridity. The course will explore the pervasive artistic, psychological, and political impact of colonization through a reading of both literary texts and critical essays.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course you will have:

- become an acute reader of literary and cultural texts with an understanding of the social, political, and cultural implications at work in the production of texts.
- developed a capacity for critical thinking. You will be equipped with the tools to perform critical analysis of literature, culture, and history.
- understood the role that literature plays in the construction of cultural norms, the maintenance of cultural hegemony, and the production and contestation of ideologies of the center.

MY POLICIES:

ENGL 3355 is a discussion course. Your attendance and participation are essential to your success in it.

Assignments policy:

Papers are due at the beginning of class. Paper assignments (not reader response papers) should be typed, double spaced, stapled, and have your name and the course number in the top left hand corner of the first page. **Late papers will be penalized by 3 points each day they are late. A doctor's note will not excuse a late paper.** I expect you to have done the reading/writing assignment on the day scheduled on the syllabus.

Attendance:

I will take roll every day. During the semester you are permitted **FOUR** absences. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, so use your time wisely.

Doctor's visits, surgeries, meetings with advisors, sports trips, etc all will be taken from your absence total. You do not need to provide me with documentation for your absence. **Each absence after the fourth one will result in a 2 point penalty off your final grade.** Only in exceptional cases will I accept documentation excusing you after the fourth absence. If you are absent from class you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate, completing the work you have missed, and for being on schedule when you return. **If you are sick for the day of your group presentation you MUST CONTACT YOUR GROUP MEMBERS AND ME BEFORE THE CLASS BEGINS.** Failure to do so will result in a zero for that assignment.

Tardiness:

You must arrive to class on time. Tardiness to class may result in your being counted as absent.

Classroom/email etiquette:

I expect each member of the class to behave respectfully towards each other and towards me. Some of you may find the material we will discuss in class to be controversial, but not everyone will share your opinion. Please be mindful of this fact during discussions and in email correspondence.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another person's work and passing it off as your own. **It includes direct lifting of another's words or ideas as well as PARAPHRASING another's words or ideas.** Please complete the online tutorial offered by the library: <<library.uta.edu/tutorials/Plagiarism>> This tutorial will teach you when you need to cite a source and how to do it correctly. Plagiarism is a serious offense and carries serious consequences, including failure and/or expulsion from the University. Faculty members are required to report incidences of plagiarism and cheating to Student Judicial Affairs.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or earlier if accommodations are needed immediately. Please bring a copy of all relevant paperwork to the meeting. If you do not have a notification for accommodations but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Students with Disabilities, 102 University Hall, 2-3364.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Academic Assistance resource page of the Office of Student Success Programs, www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess/academic-assistance. To help students address personal, academic and career concerns, individual counseling is also available. For more information, students are encouraged to contact Counseling Services www.counseling.uta.edu at (817) 272-3671 or visit a counselor in 216 Davis Hall.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

REQUIRED TEXTS (in order they are to be read):

These are available at the bookstore. I expect you to bring the appropriate text to each class. If you cannot find the text at one of the local bookstores you should buy it from an online vendor, such as Amazon or Barnes and Noble. **Everybody MUST have their books by week 2 of class. Failure to bring the appropriate text to class may result in an absence.**

Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions*
 Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*
 Coetzee, *Foe*
 Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*
 Grenville, *The Secret River*
 Duff, *Once Were Warriors*

WebCT readings

Leela Gandhi, “Postcolonialism and the new humanities”
 Macaulay’s “Minute on Indian Education”
 Said, “Orientalism”
 Césaire, *A Tempest* (short excerpt)
 Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (short excerpt)
 Fanon, “The Negro and Language”
 Ngũgĩ “The Language of African Literature”
 Lowe, “Travel Narratives and Orientalism”
 Vigo, “Limoge, Our Women, and Other Colonial Metaphors”

Your Grade: This is a **discussion course** and requires active and consistent participation from all members of the class. The breakdown of your final grade is as follows.

- Paper #1 (6-8 pages) **20% Due 9/24**
- Midterm Exam **20% 10/6**
- Response Papers **15%**
- Final Paper (7-10 pages) **25% Due 12/3**
- Group presentation **20%**

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES:

The format for your presentation is fairly open. You and your group should introduce a topic that is related to things we've talked about in class (see below for suggestions). The presentation should last between **50** and **60** minutes (depending on the number in your group) and should involve each member of the group equally (approximately 10 mins each).

Requirements for the presentation

- You must meet as a group at least a week before your assignment. After this meeting, you should discuss your topic with me.
- **You should hand in a report detailing the content of the presentation on the day it is due with a cover sheet signed by each member of the group, attesting to equal participation.** Please ensure that this is one document, conceived by the whole group, not four separate reports of each part.
- **You should attempt to make an argument.** What does the research you've done contribute to our discussion? What conclusions can be drawn?
- **You should have discussion questions for the class.**
- **You will be graded individually**, BUT I will be looking for equal participation from all members. If one person does all the work, the presentation will suffer. You will be graded on the content of the presentation, your ability to involve the class in discussion, and your ability to work together as a group. The use of multimedia sources is expected!

Suggested topics for presentations

- Examine the postcolonial history of a country or a people not covered in our syllabus. Eg. Native Americans, Caribbean natives or creoles, Irish or Canadian peoples, other African countries, etc.
- Examine representations of the Other in cultural and popular discourse, ie. music, movies, news, etc.

RESPONSE PAPER GUIDELINES

- You are required to complete **nine** of these throughout the semester. It is up to you which weeks you will write a response.
- **These should be typed, single-spaced and one page.**
- They will be collected on the first day a new text (novel, video, article) is discussed. I will not accept response papers on texts that we have already begun to talk about in class. When responding to an article, the first paragraph should summarize the main argument of the article. The rest of the paper should analyze the implications of the argument.
- When writing on a novel or film, you may pick any aspect of the text that relates to issues we've been discussing in class. You should demonstrate that you have read the whole assignment. **Do not**

comment on the first few pages only. This is a formal piece of writing. It is **NOT a journal or diary entry.** **Do not** just explain why you do or don't like the novel/film, or do or don't understand the article.

- **No late papers, except in the case of documented illness, will be accepted.** If you cannot make it to class you should email me your response paper.

Tentative Assignment Schedule (subject to change)

Readings are due on the date recorded and should therefore be completed BEFORE the corresponding class day. Though we might devote more than one class period to discussion of the readings you should COMPLETE the reading by the date noted below. Readings may change at my discretion.

DATE	CLASS DISCUSSION/ READINGS DUE
Week 1 T 8/25	Introduction to syllabus. In-class viewing of <i>Gandhi</i>
R 8/27	<i>Gandhi</i> continued.
Week 2 T 9/1	<i>Gandhi</i> discussion. Leela Gandhi, "Postcolonialism and the new humanities" (WebCT) Macaulay, "Minute on Indian education handout." (WebCT)
R 9/3	Said, "Orientalism" (WebCT)
Week 3 T 9/8	Cesaire and Shakespeare "Tempest" excerpts (WebCT) Fanon, "The Negro and Language" (WebCT)
R 9/10	Ngugi "The Language of African Literature" (WebCT)
Week 4 T 9/15	Dangarembga, <i>Nervous Conditions</i> chs 1-5, pp 1-76.
R 9/17	<i>Nervous Conditions</i> chs 5-8, pp.77-149
Week 5 T 9/22	<i>Nervous Conditions</i> chs 8-end, pp. 149-204
R 9/24	Student Presentation Paper One Due
Week 6 T 9/29	Vigo, "Limoge, Our Women, and Other Colonial Metaphors"
R 10/1	Lowe, "Travel Narratives and Orientalism" (WebCT)
Week 7	Midterm Exam

T 10/6	
R 10/8	Campion, <i>The Piano</i> (This film is available through Netflix or Blockbuster and must be viewed outside of class)
Week 8	Coetzee, <i>Foe</i> pp.5-72
T 10/13	
R 10/15	Coetzee, <i>Foe</i> pp.72- end
Week 9	Student Presentation
T 10/20	
R 10/22	Kureishi, <i>Buddha of Suburbia</i> , pp. 3-90
Week 10	Kureishi, <i>Buddha of Suburbia</i> , pp. 90-181
T 10/27	
R 10/29	Kureishi, <i>Buddha of Suburbia</i> , pp. 182-284
Week 11	<i>The Secret River</i> Parts 1-3 (pp. 3-123)
T 11/3	
R 11/5	<i>The Secret River</i> Parts 3-4 (pp. 125-185)
Week 12	<i>The Secret River</i> Parts 4-6 (pp. 189-271)
T 11/10	
R 11/12	<i>The Secret River</i> Part 6 (pp.275-334)
Week 13	Student Presentation
T 11/17	
R 11/19	Fanon, "On Violence," <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> pp. 1-62
Week 14	<i>Once Were Warriors</i> pp 1-107.
T 11/24	
R 11/26	No Class--Thanksgiving
Week 15	<i>Once Were Warriors</i> pp.108-192
T 12/1	
R 12/3	Student Presentation Final Paper Due